

Our BLUE Pacific Act establishes a comprehensive, long-term framework for United States foreign policy in the Pacific Islands, focusing on three essential pillars:

Security, development, and shared values.

Our legislation would expand diplomatic and development presence; increase maritime security cooperation and assistance; deepen and diversify trade; support regional economic and social development in areas like public health and education; invest in climate adaptation and climate resilient infrastructure; coordinate with existing regional institutions and like-minded allies and partners; promote shared values like press freedom and gender equality; and strengthen people-to-people relationships and civil society. It would back up our commitment by authorizing \$1 billion in assistance programs for the region for each of the next five fiscal years, more than triple current levels of assistance.

In naming this bill, we not only pay tribute to the concept of the “Blue Pacific” embraced by leaders of the Pacific Islands Forum themselves as a shared identity and platform for collective action, but also intend for our efforts to be informed by and coordinated with the work of existing regional institutions and frameworks. This legislation would also integrate these programs with those of our like-minded allies and partners, including Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Taiwan, and more.

I have no doubt that the introduction and enactment of the BLUE Pacific Act will be welcomed by our partners and allies in the Pacific Islands.

In uncertain times, this legislation sends a clear and powerful statement of what our foreign policy seeks to achieve—a regional order, built on mutual assistance and benefit, free of coercion, and fully respectful of the sovereignty of all nations. We seek to empower the countries and people of the region to determine the course of their own destinies. As a Pacific nation, we hope to share in that future alongside our Pacific Islands neighbors.

The BLUE Pacific Act is the first step in that direction. I encourage my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring the BLUE Pacific Act and urge swift consideration of this critical legislation.

CONGRATULATING EDDIE DRILLING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize my longtime friend, Eddie Drilling, who recently announced that he will be retiring later this year after a 41-year career with AT&T.

Eddie currently serves as the senior vice president for External and Regulatory Affairs at AT&T, where he leads the national regulatory organization.

His ties to Arkansas remain strong. He currently serves the University of Arkansas Board of Advisors, the Sam Walton College of Business Dean's Executive Advisory Board, and the Razorback Foundation Board.

Eddie has been a leader in Arkansas for four decades, and a member and mentor of many organizations. He received the Pinnacle Award from the Little Rock Regional Chamber of Commerce, the highest award our chamber gives for service to the community. He also received the Lifetime of Service Award from the city of Little Rock.

Mr. Speaker, I join all Arkansans in congratulating Eddie Drilling.

RECOGNIZING KEN REEVES ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE GAME AND FISH COMMISSION

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ken Reeves' outstanding contributions to conservation in Arkansas and his dedication at keeping Arkansas the “Natural State.” Ken served on the Game and Fish Commission as chairman for 5 years.

He grew up in Harrison, Arkansas, where he attended Harrison High School and went to the University of Arkansas School of Law. Ken's love of fishing and passion for conserving wildlife from a young age made him an easy and successful appointment to the commission.

Ken has demonstrated his passion for making a positive change as the chairman of the commission. He is leaving behind a legacy of improved outdoor services that will be enjoyed for generations to come.

My congratulations to Ken Reeves.

JERRY EVANS—OUTSTANDING COACH OF THE YEAR

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jerry Evans for being named one of Arkansas' Outstanding Coaches of the Year.

This year, Coach Evans led the Searcy High School Girls Wrestling Team to victory as the girls Arkansas State champions, also picking up two individual championships on the team.

In 2019, he was the 5A Wrestling Coach of the Year for the Arkansas Wrestling Coaches Association, and was chosen by the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette as the All Arkansas Preps Wrestling Coach of the Year, and named the Arkansas High School Coaches Association Wrestling Coach of the Year through the Arkansas Activities Association.

Coach Evans received his master's in kinesiology at Harding University in Searcy, graduating as the first member of his immediate family to earn a college degree. In an interview with the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, Coach Evans said, “I knew I wanted to be a coach ever since I was in 8th grade. I knew I wanted to be in education and become a teacher.”

Mr. Speaker, I thank Coach Evans for his commitment to his students and his leadership as their coach.

GUY-PERKINS PTA PURCHASING SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Parent

Teacher Association at the Guy-Perkins School District for once again providing students with school supplies for the upcoming academic year. All students in grades K–12 will have school supplies provided to them, regardless of whether students have chosen on-campus instruction or distance learning for this fall.

As parents, teachers, students and educators begin a uniquely challenging school year, the PTA's long tradition will help parents with back-to-school costs and ensure that our teachers do not have to purchase their own supplies.

According to Betty Vickers, Guy-Perkins PTA's secretary and treasurer, the initiative helps boost the community's economy because all the supplies are purchased locally. I am happy this wonderful tradition has continued into the 2020–2021 school year, especially during these extraordinary times where educating our kids presents unique challenges.

JENNIFER CARNAHAN RECEIVES SERVICE AWARD

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jennifer Carnahan as CHI St. Vincent's recipient of the 2019 Sister Teresa Joseph Babcock Service Excellence Award.

Jennifer was born in Dumas, Arkansas, and received her nursing degree from the University of Houston before attending the Academy of Health Care Professionals for surgical technology.

Jennifer has been serving in the medical field since she was 19 years old, starting in the ER, and she currently works in neurosurgery. Sister Teresa Joseph worked at CHI St. Vincent for nearly 30 years, exemplifying St. Vincent's core values of reverence, integrity, compassion, and excellence. Jennifer currently works in the neurology area in the North Campus.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Jennifer Carnahan.

FARMERS FEEDING UTAH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MCADAMS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize some incredible things that have happened in my State.

In Utah, COVID-19 has hit families and the food-buying public very hard. Many supply chain elements have closed, leaving farmers unable to sell their Utah-grown products.

But Utah farmers are passionate about feeding people, so the Utah Farm Bureau launched “Farmers Feeding Utah.”

Donations to the nonprofit campaign went to farmers to purchase their products, and the Utah Farm Bureau handled processing costs and partnered with hunger relief organizations to get the food directly to needy families.

Since May, they have received more than \$300,000 in donations that allow